

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, CANTERBURY & ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN, KENT

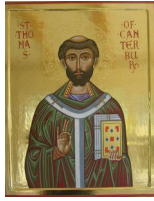
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ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN
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Facebook: **St Thomas of Canterbury**

Parish Priest: **Canon Anthony Charlton** email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priests: **Fr Giovanni Prandini** email: giovanniprandini@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: **Miss Linda Scott** (based at St Thomas')

Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): Open Sundays from after 9.30 Mass until 12 noon

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Chaplain: Fr Mark Wharton (markwharton@rcaos.org.uk)

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Executive Principal: Mr M Walters; Academy Principal: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)



ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

6.00pm (Vigil): Alma and Hugh Lloyd - thanksgiving

Sunday 25th Aug: 21st Sun in Ordinary Time (B) Jn 6: 60-69

8.00am: Filipino Community and their families

9.30am: Massimo Tedeschi - RIP

11.00am: David Evans on his birthday

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: People of the Parish

Monday 26th Aug: Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God

PUBLIC HOLIDAY Mt 23: 13 - 22

10am: Daisy - Birthday

Tuesday 27th Aug: St Monica

Mt 23: 23-26

12 noon: Sean Hayes - thanksgiving

Wednesday 28th Aug: St Augustine

Mt 23: 27-32

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: M Abraham - RIP

NO Tea and coffee in the hall after Mass due to renovations

Thursday 29th Aug: Passion of St John the Baptist Mk 6: 17-29

7.30am: N J Abraham and Aleyamma Abraham - RIP

12 noon: Tita Riley - RIP

Friday 30th Aug: Sts Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward

Mt 25: 1-13

12 noon: David Riley - RIP (Foundation Mass)

Saturday 31st Aug: St Aidan & the Saints of Lindisfarne

Mt 25: 14-30

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Saskia & Francis Kerr on the occasion of their Wedding

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

4.30pm: Legion of Mary meeting in the Upper Room

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday 1st September: 22nd Sun in Ordinary Time (B)

Mk 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

SEASON OF CREATION

8.00am: Ben Mutch - RIP

9.30am: UCM and families

11.00am: Joseph McKee - RIP

6.00pm: Our Lady of Medjugorje - intentions

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 25th Aug: 21st Sun in Ordinary Time (B) Jn 6: 60-69

10.00am: Thanksgiving - Patricia Papa

Sunday 1st September: 22nd Sun in Ordinary Time (B)

Mk 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

10.00am: People of the Parish

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Jenni Aldridge, Josie Price, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Audrey Martin, Heather Dandison, Maria Krynicki, Richard Sexton, Frank Basquil, Judith Parsons, Therese Punnett, Andrew Burton, Pauline Ventress, Jean Crane, Pat Andrews, Patrick Lyons, Caine Libin, Matthew Young, Arthur Noronha, Marjery Craig, Juliet Nakabugo, Marie David Ambrosine, Pauline Ryan, Mary De Wolf, Brian Collins, Louis de Marigny, Audrey Green and Marion Kelly

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Sr John Baptist, Judith Roser, Mary Cawthorn, David Tully, Joe Gunn, John Keily, Mary Jeffries, Germaine Reid, Patricia Gibson, Vince Dalton, Sean Tazey, Christine Metcalfe, Ken Clark, Fr David Standley, Keith Taylor, Francoise Heaton, Sheila Elliott, Ron Cameron, Mary Wright (Woodman), Tita Riley, William Humphries, Sister Katherine Owens, Teresa McGaughey, Mary Edgington, Angela Mallion, Sharon Dobson, Jorge Manuel Gomes, Brigid Davis and Joan Sutton

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in August 2024:

Marie Kelly, William Quinn, Marion Weber, Sr Mary Antonia McGovern and Barbara Markham

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **24/25 August** : No second collection this weekend

Next weekend: **31 Aug/ 01 Sept** : No second collection this weekend

CHILDREN'S LITURGY. Children's liturgy will not take place during August, liturgy will re-commence on the 8th of September 2024

There will be no Scripture Group after Thursday midday Mass during the month of August. We recommence on the first Thursday in September.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST 2024

For political leaders

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 07 September 2024** at 9.00 am in the Presbytery. Places are limited so call or email the office to book. Please fill in a Registration Form in advance (from office, online or in the Narthex)

As we process to the altar to receive the consecrated host at Communion time, the priest, deacon or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion holds the host before us and says, "The Body of Christ". We respond by saying audibly, "Amen". In this way we are making a profession of faith. We are saying YES. St Augustine explains, "If there you are the Body of Christ and its members, it is your sacrament that reposes on the altar of the Lord. It is your sacrament that you receive. It is to what you are that you respond 'Amen'. This response is your signature. You hear "Body of Christ." Your respond 'Amen!' Be a member of the Body of Christ so that your 'Amen' may be true."

Sometimes when I say "The Body of Christ" to someone who comes to receive communion there is silence. They do not for some reason make any expression of faith. It is important that we respond by saying "Amen" to what we are about to receive. It is our affirmation that we believe that what we receive is really and truly the Body and Blood of Jesus under the appearance of bread and wine.

In the Gospel for this Sunday, not all those who were following Christ, the disciples, accepted what he teaching them; that his body was real food and his blood was real drink. "This saying is too hard; who can accept it? Many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him" (John 6:60). Jesus gave the Twelve the choice, "Do you also want to leave?" Peter spoke for them all; "You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

Just as we see Joshua in the first reading challenging the people to declare where they stand so we declare by our 'Amen' where we stand. By saying 'Amen' to the one who is the Bread of Life we also commit ourselves to being and living the Body of Christ in the world. To being bread for others, within the church and beyond it.

In the concluding Rite of the Mass we acknowledge God has blessed us with the Holy Gift we have celebrated and we accept our responsibility to take it with us and live it out; "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord" or "Go in peace glorifying the Lord with your life". Cardinal Bernadine wrote, "The dismissal of the assembly is like the breaking of the bread. We have "become the bread of life" and the "cup of blessing" for the world. Now we are scattered, broken, poured out to be life for the world. What happens at home, in the world, at meals? What do we make of our time, our words, our deeds, our resources of all kinds? That is what matters".

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

MARY'S MEALS INITIATIVE

Mary's Meals would like to invite you to collect all your foreign currency* no matter how old or obscure. After the summer break especially if some of you have travelled abroad, we would like you to put all your foreign coins/notes aside; we will be collecting all your foreign currency in September/October with special Mary's Meals envelopes available at the back of church. Currently the charity feeds over 2.4 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education – by giving Mary's Meals your foreign currency you can help feed the next hungry child. *We will also take UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender



Back to school blessing Sunday 8th September There will be a blessing of children returning to school at the 9:30am mass ONLY .. Whether your child is at a new school or nursery, or has just moved into a new class they are encouraged to either wear their school jumper or bring their book bag to be blessed. There will be tea and cakes after the mass. Donations of cakes welcome on the day.

"Pilgrim's Progress to Rome, an eight-day trek in Autumn 2025, is a charity fundraising challenge organised by the charity Life. Life supports women in unexpected and crisis pregnancies and those experiencing pregnancy loss. Life are calling all those with "an adventurous spirit and a compassionate heart", to email emilytraynor@lifecharity.org.uk to receive more information."

2024 Building A Better Marriage days will be held in

Worcester Park St Matthias parish Sat, Sept 28 worcesterpark@rcaos.org.uk;
Wimbledon The Sacred Heart parish Sat Oct 26 wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk;
Woolwich St Peter the Apostle parish Sat Nov 2 woolwich@rcaos.org.uk

RCIA: We are beginning our Journey in Faith Sessions at the end of September 2024 for those adults who are thinking about becoming Catholic. These might be people who are baptised Anglican or who have not been baptised. Some have already contacted Canon Anthony and Father Giovanni. If you are interested, please take a form from the Narthex, complete it and return it to the Parish office.

The annual service for those that have been harmed by abuse.

The service will be held on the **25th September 2024 at 6.30pm @ St George's Cathedral** and will be led by **Archbishop John Wilson**.

The service is for Healing & Hope for all those that have been harmed by abuse, their families & friends. It is also to recognise the work of those that support survivors of abuse. At the end of the service, everyone will be invited to tie a ribbon in support of those that have been harmed by abuse. There will be light refreshments afterwards and a place for anyone who wishes to, to talk to the safeguarding team.

The funeral Masses of :

the late Joan Sutton takes place on Tuesday, 10 September at 12 noon;
the late Brigid Davis takes place on Wednesday, 11 September at 12 noon. Brigid will be brought into the church on Tuesday, 10th September at 4.00pm

Grief in Loss, Hope in Christ weekend retreat. Fri 4 - Sun 6 October 2024

For anyone who has experienced bereavement, whether recently or some time ago. We grieve, remember, hope and give thanks for our loved ones in the light of the Resurrection of Jesus. Cost £260 Single shared £230. For more information and bookings contact: Tel: 01622 717 272 or email: reception@thefriars.org.uk